

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-14

RSC-01 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03

H-03 INR-11 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

AID-20 CIEP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15

PRS-01 SP-03 FEAE-00 OMB-01 SWF-02 /245 W

----- 117402

R 191730Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4502

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD

SUBJECT: US TRADE BILL

REF: STATE 172285

1. WE HAVE BRIEFED FRG OFFICIALS INTERESTED IN
TRADE POLICY ON STATUS OF US BILL AND HAVE CONVEYED
INFORMATION CONTAINED IN REFTEL TO THEM. THEY HAVE
ASKED US TO CLARIFY TWO POINTS.

A. PARA 2(F) OF REFTEL DISCUSSES RATIFICATION OF
THE VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT AGREEMENTS. FRG UNDERSTANDS
THAT ONLY EXISTING AGREEMENTS ARE WITH EC AND JAPAN
ON STEEL. ARE THERE ANY OTHER EXISTING AGREEMENTS
COVERED BY THIS PROVISION?

B. FRG IS CONCERNED THAT DESCRIPTION OF SENATOR
MONDALE'S AMENDMENTS CONCERNING ACCESS TO SUPPLIES
(PARA 2(K), REFTEL) IMPLIES THAT US MAY BE MOVING

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TOWARDS BILATERAL RATHER THAN MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS

ON ACCESS TO SUPPLIES, SINCE THIS DESCRIPTION DISTINGUISHES BETWEEN "INTERNATIONAL RULES" GOVERNING ACCESS TO SUPPLIES AND "MULTILATERAL RULES" AGAINST DENIAL OF EQUITABLE ACCESS. THEY HOPE THIS IS NOT THE CASE, AND THAT US IS STILL INTERESTED IN MULTILATERAL, NON-DISCRIMINATORY SUPPLY ACCESS AGREEMENTS. EMBASSY NOTED THAT SUPPLY ACCESS RULES WOULD IN ANY CASE HAVE TO BE CONSISTENT WITH GATT, BUT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO GIVE FRG A FIRM REASSURANCE ON THIS POINT. IN ADDITION, FRG OFFICIALS HAD PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN ABOUT IMPLICATIONS OF AMBASSADOR EBERLE'S JULY 23 TESTIMONY BEFORE JEC SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC GROWTH. THEY THOUGHT THAT US MIGHT BE SETTING THE GROUNDWORK FOR NEGOTIATING NON-MFN BILATERAL AGREEMENTS TO SAFEGUARD ITS ACCESS TO SUPPLIES. THESE FRG WORRIES ABOUT THE IMPLICATIONS OF EBERLE'S SPEECH PROBABLY UNDERLIE THE CLOSE FRG READING OF PARA 2 (K).

2. BEYOND THESE FORMAL QUERIES, AN ECONOMICS MINISTRY DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY, AT A SOCIAL OCCASION, EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE REQUIREMENT (IN THE SENATE COMMITTEE'S VERSION) OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION BY CONGRESS FOR A CHANGE IN US LAW INVOLVING NTB'S (PARA 2C OF REFTEL). HE THOUGHT THAT SUCH REQUIREMENT WOULD COMPLICATE NEGOTIATION OF NTB AGREEMENTS BY PLACING THE EC COUNCIL IN DISADVANTAGEOUS NEGOTIATING POSITION.

3. MATERIAL PROVIDED REFTEL WAS HIGHLY USEFUL. WE HOPE DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO FURNISH SUCH THOROUGH AND TIMELY BRIEFING MATERIALS AS TRADE BILL PROGRESSES. HILLENBRAND

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